AN

AFFECTIONATE TRIBUTE

TO THE

MEMORY

OF THE LATE

Dr. JOHN FOTHERGILL.

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BRITISH MUSEUM

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By W. HIRD, M.D.

Accuſtomed as we are to ſee the ravages of that hand, which removes the generations of men, ſtrong and weak, rich and poor, the ignorant and the wiſe, like the herbage that falls promiſcuouſly before the ſcythe, not one could refrain the unaffected ſigh, ſcarcely the tear, when it was known that our *Ruſſel* was no more!

Dr. FOTHERGILL's Eſſay on the Character of Dr. RUSSEL.

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M.DCC.LXXXI.

BRITISH MUSEUM

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MEMORY

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Dr. JOHN FOTHERGILL.

IT muſt be admitted that no partiality of affection ſhould ſo warp the mind, as to influence its regard for truth. On common ſubjects, the world is indulgent enough to accept the embelliſhments which a warm imagination may add to a few plain facts, but the language of eulogy is always ſuſpected, and conſequently much more expoſed to the ſeverity of remark; yet if any ſubject that I am acquainted with will bear a more than ordinary warmth of expreſſion, it certainly may be indulged in a Tribute to the memory of the late Dr. Fothergill.

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The general voice has placed him amongſt the illuſtrious characters of the preſent age; but, what is more to his honour, it has placed him amongſt the beſt of men. May the memorial I am giving to the public preſerve his name unblemiſhed by miſrepreſentation, till ſome more equal pen ſhall hand it down to poſterity, as a bright example of what great uſefulneſs extraordinary talents may prove to ſociety, when under the direction of a good heart, fine feelings, and an enlarged philanthropy.

His underſtanding was of a manly, energetic caſt; it was penetrating, comprehenſive, and highly cultivated: There was a firm dignity in his character, which, though it could not bend to any thing unbecoming itſelf, yet was accompanied by a certain ſoftneſs and complacency of manner peculiarly conciliating. His heart was ſincere, friendly, compaſſionate, and liberal to exceſs. His hand was an unſparing diſtributor, and the bounties of it, leſt they might not reach the truly worthy, were, not unfrequently, diffuſed amongſt the impoſing, and the ungrateful.

His practice as a phyſician was by no means confined to London and its environs, the place of his long and general reſidence. For ſome years paſt he made

a point of retiring, during a few ſummer months, to his place in Cheſhire; a ſeat choſen by him as a ſequeſtered retreat from the labours and fatigue of his profeſſional attentions, to digeſt his thoughts, take poſſeſſion of himſelf, and invigorate his mind and body for his returning duties: but it too frequently happened, that what he had pleaſingly conceived as an aſylum from care and intruſion, proved not the retirement he was in purſuit of. Whereſoever he reſided, his name and character followed him, carrying along with them thoſe influences, which not only pervaded every quarter of this, and the neighbouring kingdom of Ireland, but a very conſiderable part of Europe and North America; from whence, in caſes that apparently would admit of the delay, he was frequently conſulted by letter and deſcription.

From this high rank in his profeſſion, and from the reſpectful manner in which he was always treated, it may very reaſonably be concluded that the pecuniary emoluments of his practice were large: and ſo they certainly were, to an uncommon degree; the produce of his annual practice being greater than has fallen to the lot of moſt phyſicians in this nation: and could the fees he rejected be added to the ſum, it would have increaſed to a

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ſurpriſing amount; but he was accuſtomed to make diſtinctions, which would not, I preſume at leaſt, enter into every mind.—Yet notwithſtanding all theſe ſources of affluence, ſo large and ſo numerous were the channels through which his bounties flowed, that they might be truly ſaid to be ſcarcely equal to the liberality of his heart.

There is a certain exquiſiteneſs of ſenſation in the tones of ſome minds, which, amidſt the various circumſtances of life, and the unavoidable evils attendant on humanity, is, indeed, a moſt painful ſpecies of pre-eminence: the mind of Dr. Fothergill was of this mould; it was ever in uniſon with the afflicted ſpirit in all ſituations, exciting him to acts of the moſt cordial friendlineſs.

In the diſtribution of his favours, he retreated as much as poſſible from the acknowledgments of thoſe he obliged. He knew the value of a grateful heart fully, for his own was grateful in the extreme; but he rather choſe that the objects of his kindneſs ſhould feel that active and eſſential gratitude which is better evinced by a proper uſe of favours, and a happy change in circumſtance and ſituation, than by any verbal expreſſion. In a few words, Dr. Fothergill's beneficences flowed from

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him with ſo graceful an eaſe, and ſo high a poliſh of addreſs, that no modeſt worth was wounded, nor the acuteneſs of diſtreſs increaſed, by the aukwardneſs of its acknowledgments.—His was not that drop-like bounty which pauſes in its progreſs; it was full, flowing, and benign.

Although it may be the general practice of phyſicians in other countries, as well as in this, to refuſe the fees of the inferior clergy, yet the conduct of Dr. Fothergill towards numbers of this claſs, was diſtinguiſhed by ſomething more generous than meer forbearance; it was marked by extraordinary kindneſs.

He conſidered the inferior claſſes of clergymen as more particularly the objects of his liberality and attention; being brought up in that line of education, which, in the opinion of the world, precludes bodily labour, and to which the idea of the gentleman is annexed, without a competency to ſupport the character; to many of theſe, I am an evidence, he was a kind friend and a private benefactor; not only by his advice in perſonal diſtreſs, but by his purſe, on ſeverely trying occaſions.—Nay, ſo cordial was his humanity towards theſe, that on a friend's hinting to him, whilſt he was in the country, that his favours were

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not marked by propriety of diſtinction (the gentleman from whom he had refuſed his fee being placed in high rank in the church, with an independent fortune) he returned a ready explanation of his principle of action; "I had rather, ſaid the Doctor, return the fee of a "gentleman with whoſe rank I am not perfectly ac- "quainted, than run the riſk of taking it from a man, who "ought, perhaps, to be the object of my bounty." Such was the noble ſtyle of this moſt excellent man's way of thinking.

The humane reader will feel the fineſt ſprings of his affections moved, by the following anecdote given to me by a clergyman of high rank, who reveres the memory of Dr. Fothergill, and places his obligations to him, in a very trying ſeaſon, near to his heart.

A friend of his, a man of a worthy character, who has at this time an income of about one hundred pounds a year, church preferment, was, in the earlier part of his life, ſeated in London upon a curacy of fifty pounds per annum, with a wife and a numerous family.—An epidemical diſeaſe, which was at that time prevalent, ſeized upon his wife, and five of his children: in this ſcene of diſtreſs he looked up to the Doctor for

for his aſſiſtance, but dared not apply to him, from a conſciouſneſs of his being unable to reward him for his attendance.—A friend, who knew his ſituation, kindly offered to accompany him to the Doctor's, and give him his fee; they took the advantage of his hour of audience, and after a deſcription of the ſeveral caſes, the fee was offered, and rejected; but a note was taken of his place of reſidence. The Doctor called aſſiduouſly the next, and every ſucceeding day, till his attendance was no longer neceſſary. The Curate, anxious to return ſome grateful mark of the ſenſe he entertained of his ſervices, ſtrained every nerve to accompliſh it; but his aſtoniſhment was not to be deſcribed, when, inſtead of receiving the money he offered, with apologies for his ſituation, the Doctor put ten guineas into his hand, deſiring him to apply to him without diffidence in future difficulties.

Although amidſt the diffuſion of his favours he too frequently met with painful returns, yet he would never allow inſtances of this ſort to check the ardour of his mind in doing all the good he could to others; and even to thoſe who returned ingratitude for kindneſs, his charity continued ſtill patient, hoping all things. It was his common expreſſion, when he found his favours miſapplied, or himſelf impoſed upon, "I had much rather that my

" favours ſhould fall upon many undeſerving objects,
" than that one truly deſerving ſhould eſcape my notice."

From the extenſiveneſs of his daily employments in London and its neighbourhood, to which muſt be added, the variety of his medical, philoſophical, literary, and friendly correſpondence, it may be a matter of ſurpriſe to many, how he could acquit himſelf of the number of his engagements; yet he underſtood ſo well the value of a moment, and the influence of order in the management of time, that he could generally ſettle his moſt intereſting concerns every evening, before he retired to reſt. His thoughts were ſo perfectly digeſted, his penetration was ſo quick, and his hand was ſo rapid in its obedience to the dictates of his mind, that what might have been to many able men a ſcene of inquietude, not to ſay of confuſion, was, in his hands, eaſy and familiar. In caſes of moment he was no procraſtinator.

In the practice of a phyſician it is a happineſs to himſelf, and certainly a much greater to his patients, if he is in poſſeſſion of that native acumen or ſagacioufneſs of mind, which, from the ſuperior importance of his art, ought to have a high place in the ſcale of character, could it be clearly aſcertained.—In every other art or ſci-

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ence it may be eaſily diſtinguiſhed by men of moderate abilities; but in medicine, its effects not being ſo obvious, popular impreſſion, or private influence, muſt neceſſarily be accepted as ſecurity for its exiſtence. It has ſo little dependance upon medical education, and profeſſional employment, that a man may have enjoyed all the advantages of the one, and all the emoluments of the other, yet neither he nor his patients may have felt the leaſt degree of its influence.—Education and employment are ordinary things; but this alone is the life of medical genius, and is truly extraordinary; it operates by quick diſcrimination in dubious caſes; it throws a clear light upon apparent difficulties; it fixes the judgment determinately upon the right object, and is practically illuſtrated by happy and unexpected events.—It was this ſpecies of penetration that principally diſtinguiſhed Dr. Fothergill as a medical man.

There was another advantage, of no ſmall moment, which his patients derived from his attendance; he knew how to unite the kindneſs of friendſhip with his profeſſional duties; and could enter into thoſe retreats of anxiety, from which flow an infinitude of bodily diſtreſſes, with an eye clearly diſcerning, yet incurious and benign.—A religious ſenſibility of ſpirit diſpoſed him

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to draw near the deep ſprings of affliction, and diffuſe the oil of peace over the troubled waters. There was a diſcretion in his ſympathy, that attached the confidence of his patients to an uncommon degree; and of what-importance ſuch an acquiſition muſt be in the courſe of an extenſive practice, I leave to the judgment of every ſkilful practitioner.

A lady of my acquaintance, occaſionally expreſſing her high regard for the Doctor, and the ſatisfaction ſhe received from his attendance upon her on many occaſions, made uſe of the following pathetic language.—"He was in-"deed my warm friend and adviſer in my diſtreſs, as well "as my phyſician.—He was, under Providence, the pre-"ſerver of my health, and the reſtorer of my peace in "the ſevereſt conflicts of my life."

Dr. Fothergill was an encourager of ſcience, and a generous patron of genius in every laudable purſuit. Genius and ſcience found the way to his door, from every civilized quarter of the earth.—He looked not on the nation, but on the man. When, amidſt the multiplicity and variety of applications, he could not himſelf find employment for thoſe who excelled in the liberal and uſeful arts, he was zealous in recommending them to the patronage

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of his friends.—And his compaſſion to their apparent diſtreſs, very rarely permitted him to diſmiſs them without a donation.

His large collections in natural hiſtory, and his vaſt ſtore of botanical productions, from all climates, ſtill flouriſhing in full vigour in his garden at Upton, mark with preciſion the line of his taſte.

In theſe, as in every other purſuit, he had always in view the enlargement and elevation of his own heart; having formed early habitudes of religious reference, from the diſplay of Divine Power and Wiſdom in the beauty, the order, and the harmony of external things, to the glory of their Almighty Former.—From the influences of theſe habitudes, his mind was always preſerved in a diſengaged and independent ſtate, enjoying, but yet adoring.

This reference to the Divine Being is certainly the true ground of all our ſolid enjoyments, amidſt the treaſures of nature or art; the genuine ſource of every rational relaxation from ſeverer ſtudies, and neceſſary labours.—We have each of us ſome methods of unbending the mind; ſome paths diſtinct from our ſeveral employments,

and our true wiſdom lies in chuſing ſuch as in the hour of reflection we may cooly approve.—On this ground were raiſed all the ſatisfactions which Dr. Fothergill enjoyed, in obſerving the order and arrangement of natural productions; their various diviſions and ſubdiviſions into claſſes, genera, and ſpecies; the beauty or ſingularity in the forms and colours of ſhells, corals, foſſils, and of the animal and vegetable kingdoms. It was in this vaſt and inſtructive range of natural hiſtory that the Doctor found his higheſt amuſement, and moſt agreeable relaxation.

His collection of drawings from theſe objects is very large, and well choſen.—In forming them, he employed ſeveral artiſts of various abilities; and many of them are aſtoniſhing imitations of the truth of nature.

His encouragement of genius, and his generous rewards of it, when employed in imitations of this kind, are proofs that he did not in general diſapprove of the exerciſe of this talent; but as the ſubjects of natural hiſtory were the prevailing purſuits of his own mind, during his leiſure hours, he eſteemed portrait, hiſtorical painting, and works of fancy, as objects of inferior, if not of an uſeleſs claſs, and conſequently, much leſs worthy of engaging the attention of an artiſt.

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The following anecdote will perfectly illuſtrate what I have ſaid.

A phyſician in the country, one of his moſt intimate and familiar friends, was extremely ſolicitous to have a portrait of him, and had often importuned him on the ſubject in vain. To overcome Dr. Fothergill's reſiſtance, he made uſe of the following argument; "You, ſaid he, "are yourſelf a generous patron of artiſts, and employ "them daily in the imitation of natural things; and what "diſtinction can you make between the imitation or "picture of one object and of another? for they are all "equally the work of the Great Creator, and man cer-"tainly ſtands higheſt amidſt all his works."—"The "diſtinction I make, returned the Doctor, is this; the one, "I am perſuaded, has its ground in ſelf-love, and the "vanity of man: the other has not this founda-"tion, and may, as I hope it does, ſerve the purpoſe "of ſpreading the wonders of creation, from every diſ-"tant quarter of the world, amongſt thoſe who have no "acceſs to the cabinets of the curious."—He was ſoli-cited by many, but would never allow his picture to be taken by ſitting to any painter.

His medical writings are not very numerous; and as they were publiſhed on particular occaſions, it may become a proper

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proper employment for ſome judicious profeſſional man, to collect and arrange them in ſuch a manner, that the medical world may poſſeſs them in one or two volumes intire; and ſhould his writings on other ſubjects, of a more general nature, be publiſhed by themſelves in another volume, it could not fail of being an acceptable preſent to the public.

His publications of the medical claſs are diſtinguiſhed by much obſervation, juſt reaſoning, and by a clear, fluent, and nervous expreſſion.—They are in general a ſeries of facts perfectly illuſtrated. His firſt publication of note, dated in the year 1748, was on the ulcerated ſore-throat; a complaint, in a great meaſure, new in this country, which appeared in London and its environs, about the years 1743, 1744, 1745; but in a much more dangerous degree in the year 1746, and ſome ſucceeding years. At its firſt appearance, and for ſome conſiderable time after, it was not ſo ſufficiently marked by the faculty, as to fix diſtinct and clear conceptions of it, and a right determination of practice. It had been generally treated as a common ſore throat, or ſimple inflammation of the tonſils, until very frequent repetitions of diſappointment, and a more than common fatality in the prevailing epidemic, excited the attentive and obſerving to more

more minute inquiries into the nature of the diſeaſe, the diſtinction of its character, and the cauſes of ill ſucceſs.—Dr. Fothergill's publication on this ſubject was a pleaſing preſent to all the humane of the faculty, and proved of the utmoſt conſequence to the public at large; it was perfectly deſcriptive; and what gave it more value, was, its being opportune, and it may be called with propriety the baſis of all that has been written on the ſubject.

The candour of his mind is conſpicuous in this work; he frankly acknowledges his own miſtakes in the firſt ſteps of his practice, and his humanity compelled him to look deeply into the ground of them; he was not diſappointed; his attentive obſervation marked clearly the line of diſtinction between this epidemic, and the common angina; and the practice founded on this diſtinction was at that time, with a very few exceptions, univerſally ſucceſsful.

His familiar and friendly correſpondence was remarkable for an eaſy fluency of expreſſion, a pleaſing addreſs, and an agreeableneſs of condeſcenſion to the peculiarities or foibles of his friends.

In his letters to his literary or philoſophical correſpondents, amongſt which were the firſt and brighteſt characters of the preſent age, he ſhone with uncommon luſtre; every ſubject became more luminous by his manner of treating it.

There are few public works in this kingdom, which appeared to have ſocial convenience, and a general utility for their object, of which he was not a zealous encourager, as well as a generous contributor towards their ſupport.

His ideas of the mode of conveyance by means of public canals, beſpeak the citizen of the world, and a mind turned to every uſeful purpoſe. Of theſe public works he was a vigorous promoter. The unhappy and depreſſed ſpirit of the preſent times has lamentably, indeed, put a ſevere check to an ardour for theſe, as well as for other great public undertakings; but ſhould it, in ſome diſtant period, again riſe from its preſent dejected ſtate, this great idea will neceſſarily riſe along with it.—The examples we already have of their general utility, may remain intire amidſt the wreck of things, and excite generations unborn, during ſeaſons of more tranquility, leſs diſſipation, and the revival of a languiſhing commerce, to emulate

emulate the noble aſpirings of a preceding age, and by means of theſe communications between the moſt diſtant parts of the kingdom, draw their various inhabitants into one general neighbourhood and ſocial intimacy.—This idea, independent of the eaſy and cheap means of commuting the natural productions of one province for thoſe of another, is, at leaſt, a pleaſing one, worthy to be indulged by a generous mind.

It is now proper that I ſhould ſpeak of the inſtitution which has lately been eſtabliſhed at Ackworth, a ſmall village in the county of York, in a fine healthy ſituation, a plentiful country, and ſurrounded by all the conveniences and comforts of life. Of this inſtitution Dr. Fothergill was the original projector; and although it is confined to the ſociety of the people called Quakers, the great ends which it is intended to promote are worthy of the Doctor, redound to the honour of humanity, and of that expanded philanthropy, which can ſtretch its proſpects towards the ſubſtantial welfare, not only of the preſent, but of future generations. In the ſhort deſcription I ſhall attempt to give of the motives from which it originated, and its preſent ſtate, I will endeavour to be as explicit as poſſible.

As the character of the future man is marked eſſentially by the impreſſions he receives during his ſtate of childhood, when the mind is of a more plaſtic and yielding texture, and takes its modes of thinking and acting from thoſe precepts and examples which are preſented moſt ſtrikingly before the eye; and farther, as the whole treaſure of our future happineſs moſt materially depends upon an early ſubjection of our wills to habits of a virtuous ſelf-denial, humanity moſt certainly becomes ſeriouſly intereſted, in promoting with ardour every rational means by which the mind may be formed for the general good, rather than for the bane and miſchief of ſociety.

It is this ſpecies of an attentive and guarded education, which, I have authority to ſay, was an object, wherein the Doctor was deeply intereſted for many years. He ſaw, with concern, thoſe depredations which vice and folly were daily making in ſociety, and was painfully anxious to prevent them as much as poſſible, by ſtriking at the very root of the evil.—The humanity of his mind would have ſpread its influences over the community at large; but, conſcious that the attempt would be fruitleſs, he confined his hopes within the bounds of his own perſuaſion, where his influences were powerful, and where the wiſeſt and beſt of its members, nay, I may ſay, the general

general bulk of them, were very ready to unite in his views.

There are many little eſtabliſhments amongſt that ſociety, in various parts of the kingdom, for the education of youth, and the direction of their minds in the beſt things; but on inveſtigating the deſign and extent of each, he found none fully competent to his intentions.—It was to the children of the poor, and of thoſe in that ſtate of mediocrity, which either renders them inattentive to the education of their offspring, or diſqualifies them for affording them ſuch an one as they wiſh, that Dr. Fothergill principally directed his views; as theſe form the great bulk of the community, and conſequently muſt ſpread the good or evil of their examples fartheſt. Yet, notwithſtanding this great idea had long prevailed in the Doctor's mind, nothing was effectually done, until, by one of thoſe fortunate, or rather providential events, on which hangs the fate of many great undertakings, the whole of his deſign became eaſy and practicable. On his return from Cheſhire, through Yorkſhire, in the year 1778, he did me the favour of being my gueſt a few days, during which time he was viſited by many of his friends in thoſe parts. In one of theſe interviews the converſation turned on an inſtitution

at Gilderſome, a ſmall eſtabliſhment for the education of poor children amongſt the ſociety: the Doctor was inquiring into its ſtate and management, and how far it might ſerve as a model for a larger undertaking: a juſt deſcription being given of it, with the following remark, that not only this, but all others, however laudable the motives from which they took their riſe, muſt fail of ſucceſs, without a conſtant ſuperintending care and unremitting attention to the firſt great object of the inſtitution. This idea was exemplified by the then preſent ſtate of the Foundling Hoſpital at Ackworth, which, although originating from the moſt humane principle, and erected at a vaſt expence, was, from repeated inattentions to the firſt deſign, in danger of dilapidation, and ready for public ſale. This relation ſtruck the Doctor forcibly; "Why may not this, ſaid he, ſerve the very purpoſe I "am in purſuit of?" To be ſhort, the building, and an eſtate of 80 acres of land, were purchaſed, improved, and furniſhed by ſubſcription. The Doctor ſet a generous example by his own contribution, and an endowment by his will in perpetuity.

There are now above three hundred children of both ſexes under the roof, furniſhed with all the neceſſary conveniences and comforts of life, properly clothed, and educated

educated in every branch of knowledge ſuitable for the ſtation in which it is preſumed they may be placed. And to the ſatisfaction of every benevolent heart, it may be truly ſaid, that the inſtitution is at preſent in a moſt flouriſhing ſtate, fully anſwering the deſigns of its founders; being conducted under the care of a number of choſen guardians of ability, and of an exemplary conduct, with an exactneſs of order, decency, and propriety, extremely ſtriking, and perfectly pleaſing to all who have viſited it, though not of the ſame ſociety.—The children are taught habits of regularity, of decency, of reſpectful ſubordination to their ſuperiors; of forbearance, affection, and kindneſs towards each other; and of religious reverence towards their Maker; and, I may farther add, thoſe habits of ſilence and recollection, taught and practiſed in the ancient ſchools of philoſophy, inculcated in the ſcriptures, and moſt emphatically called "the true door of entrance into the ſchool of wiſdom."

How it may appear to ſome minds I know not; but I confeſs, with reſpect to my own, that whilſt I am contemplating the wonderful eſcape of my excellent friend from a former moſt dangerous illneſs, and which the late mournful event has confirmed to have been ſuch in the moſt eminent degree; whilſt I am conſidering the

preſervation

preſervation of his life, activity, and ſpirits during the laſt two years, ſpent very much and very ardently in the promotion of this great deſign; whilſt I am viewing the preſent apparently complete ſtate of the inſtitution, which he had ſo heart-felt a ſatisfaction in ſeeing the latter end of laſt ſummer, when, breaking the ſilence of a ſolemn committee, he moſt emphatically expreſſed himſelf as "rejoicing with a degree of trembling;" I muſt own that, probably with many others, I cannot avoid looking upon the preſervation of his life to its late period, as a ſignal mark of divine favour towards the eſtabliſhment, and as a bleſſing upon his labours for its promotion.—May it, under the ſame wiſe regulations, and excellency of conduct, continue an unblemiſhed monument to the honour of his humanity, and to the laſting advantage of many generations!

With reſpect to his political character (for it is well known that Dr. Fothergill had a political character) in whatſoever light the agitated opinions of men may place him; thoſe ſteady principles of univerſal juſtice and benevolence, which directed his conduct in every other concern of life, had equal influence over his ſentiments on the great concerns of the nation. He was a warm friend to thoſe intereſts which prevailed during the moſt

moſt flouriſhing days of Great Britain. As he was diſintereſted in his motives, ſo he was alive in his feelings to every calamitous event of the preſent contention. His extenſive medical, literary, and friendly correſpondence in days of peace, with the moſt ingenious men on the other ſide the Atlantic, and his very frequent intercourſe with ſuch of them as viſited this country, furniſhed him with opportunities which few have enjoyed, of knowing the genius, tempers, and views of our American brethren; and as it is well known to the Doctor's moſt intimate friends that he had a ſincere regard for the welfare of every part of this great empire, ſo he had nothing more at heart than a permanent reconciliation between Great Britain and her Colonies.

His ideas of men, whether in or out of adminiſtration, were always formed from his obſervations on their conduct in private life, their ſtrict regard to juſtice, their œconomy, their humanity and domeſtic attentions, their intellectual abilities, and the independency of their ſituations; never, from their popularity of character, or the ſplendor of their public elocution.

There was one great leading principle which prevailed in the Doctor's mind, at his firſt entrance into public life,

and continued to its cloſe.—He thought the great buſineſs of man, as a member of ſociety, was to be as uſeful to it as poſſible, in whatſoever department he might be ſtationed.—Opulence was not his object; but it appears to have flowed upon him as the deſignation of Providence, to cheriſh and give activity to this principle.

Though the influence of Chriſtian principles is manifeſted in almoſt every branch of Dr. Fothergill's character, yet I ſhould think myſelf guilty of a neglect, injurious to the memory of my deceaſed friend, did I not obſerve, that he abhorred the prevalent infidelity of the age, and gloried in the name of Chriſtian. His attachment to revealed religion was ſincere, ariſing from rational conviction and mature deliberation.—He valued the ſcripture as the great repoſitory of divine truths, and was never aſhamed of thoſe grand fundamental doctrines, ſalvation through the mediation of Jeſus Chriſt, and ſanctification by the influences of his holy ſpirit.

His education led him into an attachment to that ſociety of Chriſtians called Quakers, and his judgment, upon a diſpaſſionate inquiry, confirmed him in that attachment; yet his mind was of that open, candid, and enlarged claſs, which ſurveys all the families of the earth, and all orders of

of men, with a liberal and comprehenſive view, as the children of one common Parent, and equally under the care of his Providence; and he was inſtant at all times to ſupport what was truly good and virtuous in them, under all forms, denominations, and diſtinctions whatſoever.—He was a man of charity in the true Chriſtian ſenſe, "thinking no evil."

The perſon of Dr. Fothergill was of a delicate, rather of an extenuated make; his features were all character; his eye had a peculiar brilliancy of expreſſion, yet it was not eaſy ſo to mark the leading trait, as to diſengage it from the united whole. He was remarkably active and alert, and, with a few exceptions, enjoyed a general good ſtate of health.

He had a peculiarity of addreſs and manner, reſulting from perſon, education, and principle; but it was ſo perfectly accompanied by the moſt engaging attentions, that he was the genuine polite man above all forms of breeding.—I knew him well, and I never knew a man who left ſuch pleaſing impreſſions on the minds of his patients.

His dreſs was remarkably neat, plain, and decent, peculiarly becoming himſelf; a perfect tranſcript of the order

order, and I may add, the neatneſs of his mind.—He thought it unworthy a man of ſenſe, and inconſiſtent with his character, to ſuffer himſelf to be led by the whim of faſhion, and become the ſlave of its caprices. But this impreſſion upon his underſtanding was much ſtrengthened by his firm attachment to his principles as a Quaker, which lead to that decent plainneſs and modeſty in dreſs, which may be preſumed to be one at leaſt amongſt the external evidences of a ſpirit elevated in its views above all tranſient and ſublunary things.

At his meals he was remarkably temperate; in the opinion of ſome, rather too abſtemious, eating ſparingly, but with a good reliſh, and rarely exceeding two glaſſes of wine at dinner or ſupper; yet by this uniform and ſteady temperance, he preſerved his mind vigorous and active, and his conſtitution equal to all his engagements.

His ideas of retreat from buſineſs were marked by a degree of dignity perfectly correſpondent with the reſt of his character. "I wiſh," ſaid he, "as far as I ought "to wiſh, to withdraw myſelf from my profeſſional la- "bours in full poſſeſſion of my faculties, and, I may add, "of my reputation; for I well know, from many an hu- "miliating inſtance, how much the infirmities of age, or "paralytic

" paralytic debility, to which we are all of us alike ex-
" poſed, may affect the remembrance of our beſt quali-
" ties."—He wiſhed to retire with the reſpect, rather than the compaſſion, of his friends.—It has pleaſed Providence to remove him from ſociety, after a few weeks painful indiſpoſition, in the vigour of his faculties, and in the luſtre of his reputation, having cloſed a life of uſefulneſs and honour, in the 69th year of his age, with expreſſions of a well-grounded aſſurance of an happy immortality.

In the language of his own eulogium on the memory of his friend Dr. Ruſſel, I ſhall conclude this imperfect Tribute to the memory of my affectionate, ſteady, and I may add, my partial friend, Dr. Fothergill;—" Ani-
" mated by his example, let us purſue the arduous track
" of public virtue; and having, like him, ſupported the
" dignity of our profeſſion, by dealing with a liberal
" hand to all the bleſſings of health, to the utmoſt of
" our abilities, and done honour to our ſpecies, by the
" conſtant exerciſe of uprightneſs, candour, and benig-
" nity, may we cloſe the ſcene in full poſſeſſion of all
" that deſerves the name of human felicity."

Harpur-ſtreet,
Feb. 28, 1781.

FINIS.

BRITISH MUSEUM